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Waukesha County Veterans Services

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FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL BENEFITS UPDATE

NEWS UPDATE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS



VA Extends “Agent Orange” Benefits to More Veterans Parkinson’s Disease, Two Other Illnesses Recognized

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel>

WASHINGTON – Relying on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki decided to establish a service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with three specific illnesses based on the latest evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to Agent Orange.

The illnesses affected by the recent decision are [B cell leukemias](#), such as [hairy cell leukemia](#); [Parkinson’s disease](#); and [ischemic heart disease](#).

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present. Between January 1965 and April 1970, an estimated 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were potentially exposed to sprayed Agent Orange.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a “presumed” illness don’t have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This “presumption” simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The Secretary’s decision brings to 15 the number of presumed illnesses

recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will,” Shinseki added. “Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence.”

Other illnesses previously recognized under VA’s “presumption” rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are:

- ♦ [Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy](#)
- ♦ [Chloracne](#)
- ♦ [Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia](#)
- ♦ [Diabetes Mellitus \(Type 2\)](#)
- ♦ [Hodgkin’s Disease](#)
- ♦ [Multiple Myeloma](#)
- ♦ [Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma](#)
- ♦ [Porphyria Cutanea Tarda](#)
- ♦ [Prostate Cancer](#)
- ♦ [Respiratory Cancers](#), and
- ♦ [Soft Tissue Sarcoma \(other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or Mesothelioma\)](#)

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA’s services and programs for Veterans exposed to the chemical are available at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange.

**COMMENTARY CORNER By: Tom Ludka, Director****VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

No one ever told us about our benefits! This is a phrase I often hear while assisting veterans or dependents with their claims for VA benefits. Many times, they could have applied years before to claim their benefits but they were just unaware of their entitlement. When I ask them, what VSO they belong to they usually state that they do not belong to any organization. Hence, they are not aware of what benefits that they are eligible to receive.

The Veterans Service Organizations, VSO's, you commonly know as; The American Legion, The Marine Corps League (MCL), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), AMVETS, Catholic War Veterans (CWV), Jewish War Veterans, Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV), Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), National Guard Association (NGAUS), Blinded Veterans of American, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) are a partial listing of VSO's that you may be eligible to join. However, WDVA is a state agency and does not solicit memberships.

These VSO's exist to assist veterans and dependents with obtaining benefits, keep our political leadership informed on how legislation affects veterans and their families, and keep alive the spirit of patriotism in our communities. Sadly, only about 10% - 20% of eligible veterans belong to a VSO. If you do not belong, it makes it difficult to keep you informed about benefits, influence the political process in maintaining, or expand existing benefits.

In Wisconsin, the largest current group of veterans is the Vietnam era veteran. I cannot say enough about what that group has done for our newest group of veterans. There is a conscious decision to ensure what happened to the Vietnam generation will not happen to the current group of veterans.

Our office receives periodic requests for assistance that sometimes fall between eligibility requirements of federal and state programs. Recently, The American Legion stepped up, paid a delinquent utility bill, and rent for a veteran. The DAV paid for food and lodging for a disabled veteran. The MOPH donated food certificates to help several needy veterans. Vietnam Veterans of America helped a family with a back payment for a health issue and parents to go see their wounded son in the hospital. The VFW assisted a veteran with food and lodging. These groups provided over \$5,000 in assistance between October and December 2009. The bottom line here is that these VSO's help many a disabled veteran and they go quietly about their work. They do it because it is the right thing to do. They are veterans helping veterans. However, they cannot continue to do this unless they have veterans who join their organizations and support their programs.

Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Numbers do matter when speaking to elected representatives. When you only represent a small portion of veterans, you carry less weight when promoting legislation. With less and less veterans serving in the State Legislature or in the US Congress, it is important to have viable organizations to articulate the veteran viewpoint to our elected representatives.

All veterans should belong to at least one VSO. Annual dues vary from

(Continued on page 16- Commentary)

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If you have any questions or comments about the contents of the newsletter, please contact Waukesha County Veterans' Service Office at 262-548-7732.

Eligibility for Government Headstones and Markers

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov/>

Public Law 110-157, signed on Dec. 26, 2007, allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish a Government headstone or marker for the graves of eligible Veterans who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Under the previous law, when the grave was already marked, only Veterans who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001 were eligible.

Public Law 110-157, also gives VA authority to "furnish, upon request, a [medallion](#) or other device of a design determined by the Secretary to signify the deceased's status as a Veteran, to be attached to a headstone or marker furnished at private expense." This benefit will be available in lieu of a Government furnished headstone or marker, for Veterans in privately marked graves who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990.

We currently estimate the medallion will be available by April 30, 2010. Please continue to monitor the [new medallion](#) web page for updated information regarding this new benefit.

There is no change in eligibility for Veterans in unmarked graves: Regardless of the date of death, VA will furnish, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of

any eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

NEW HEADSTONE DEVICE

The Department of Veterans Affairs is currently designing a medallion to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a veteran.

If requested, this new product will be furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker to those veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

We estimate this new medallion will be available by April 30, 2010 and we will begin accepting claims at that time.

Important: This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances, eligible veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

Mini Medallions—For Private Markers

The following information is from the Waukesha County Veterans Services

Many cemeteries no longer allow the installation of metal flag holders. This makes proper identification of veteran's graves difficult. The Waukesha County Veterans' Service Office has a medallion that can be affixed to a private monument of any eligible Waukesha veteran. We have a limited supply and I would advise you to check with your cemetery to insure that you may attach it to the veteran's monument. If you have a private monument and wish to identify a Waukesha veteran who died prior to Nov 1, 1990, stop by our office and pick one up.



Vision Project Seeks Participants

The following information is from the Waukesha County Veterans Services

Dr. Amy Nau, an optometrist and Director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Eye Center Contact Lens and Low Vision Services, is conducting a nationwide search for blind veterans of all ages. They are being recruited to participate in a research study on a new device to aid the blind to "see" called BrainPort. Once study participants have been trained to use the device, they will return home where they will be asked to use the

BrainPort daily and document their experiences and findings. Legally blind veterans may qualify to participate in the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center BrainPort study. If you know someone who might qualify for the test please let him or her know about it. For more information, contact the medical center at 412-647-2481, and ask for Gail Engleka or visit the [McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine website](#).

Sea Burial Services for Veterans

The following information was found at: http://www.seaservices.com/retired_navy_members.htm

U. S Navy Program

The United States Navy offers a sea burial program free of charge for the following individuals:

- ◆ Members of the uniformed services,
- ◆ Retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged from any branch of the service.
- ◆ Dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and uniformed services veterans.
- ◆ U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command.

Both cremated and non-cremated remains can be buried at sea by the Navy. Families cannot attend the service which is performed at a time and date chosen by the Navy. After completing the necessary forms, the remains must be delivered to one of several ports where the service is available. Where a full body is to be buried at sea, the casket must be prepared according to Navy guidelines and transported by a funeral director at the family's expense.

More information about the Navy's burial at sea program is available here on Sea Services' site. Simply click on the link below.

[US Military Sea Burial](#)

Sea Services Veterans Program

For those veterans wishing a more personal, customized

service, or wish to specify a burial location, many veterans and their families choose a private sea burial performed by Sea Services. We offer a variety of services at locations and times you choose. We also provide personal attention that simply cannot be found elsewhere. Sea Services offers services that welcome families to accompany the service and design a memorial of their own.

Or, for as little as \$195 (even less in California), you may have cremated remains scattered at a location of your choice. All of the services described on this web site are available to veterans and their families with special considerations given to those who have selflessly given service to their country.

Call Sea Services anytime to learn about our veterans programs. We support the World War II Memorial Fund and are grateful for the service our veterans have provided.

Helpful US Veteran's Links:

[US Army](#)

[US Navy](#)

[US Marines](#)

[US Air Force](#)

[US Coast Guard](#)

[US Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[The White House](#)

[Sea Services US Military Sea Burial](#)

RAO BULLETIN—1 JANUARY 2010

The following information is from [Source: www.bluewaternavy.org/newspage2.htm Dec 09 ++]

VA Blue Water Claims Update 09: The VA is currently building their list of Blue Water Navy ships (which include Coast Guard vessels) that performed duties on inland waterways. The Washington office at VA Headquarters is spearheading this effort and they have notified all the Regional Offices that whenever they get information regarding Blue Water Navy ships that sailed on inland waters and/or BWN ships that docked in Vietnamese ports or harbors, they are to submit that information to the DC offices for verification. Information from Deck Logs and other sources will be investigated for credibility. In filing a claim based on presumptive exposure to herbicides if your ship was in port or on inland waters, the best thing you can do is present the Regional Office (RO) along with your claim submission certified copies of the information you are using to prove this situation. In many cases, information from a Cruise Book is ideal. Information from your ship's history from Internet sites is also good. Send a copy of that portion of the Cruise Book, ship's history and/or photos that show river service or docking, along with a request for the Regional VA Office to obtain the deck logs for that time period to substantiate your claim. Statements attesting to the fact that what you are

submitting is true to the best of your knowledge should also be sent. You should have a VSO or the RO itself certify that the copies being submitted are true copies of the original documents which you need to show, but retain in your possession. The ROs will submit the certified copies of this information to the Comp & Pen Division in Washington, and the database of these inland water services will be created after verification of this information. The ultimate goal of this will be a database searchable by the Regional Offices that will validate your claims for presumptive exposure if the ship, for your specified timeframe, is in the database already from someone else's claim. Otherwise, your submission will create the first entry into the database. You will not have to bear the cost of obtaining the Deck Logs under this scenario. That will be the responsibility of the VA. Include a copy of the 19 OCT 09 letter from Secretary Shinseki to Senator Akaka which mentions the development of this searchable database of BWN ships serving in Vietnam. To download a copy of that letter refer to www.bluewaternavy.org/10-19-09-VA-Shinseki-response.pdf.

Navy Members & Dependents—Burial at Sea Entitlement

The following information was found at: http://www.seaservices.com/retired_navy_members.htm

UNITED STATES NAVY MORTUARY AFFAIRS BURIAL AT SEA PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY: Individuals eligible for this program are: (1) active duty members of the uniformed services; (2) retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged; (3) U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and (4) dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services.

HOW TO GET STARTED: After the death of the individual, for whom the request for Burial-at-Sea is being made, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) may complete a Burial-at-Sea Request Form. Supporting documents which must accompany this request are: (1) a photocopy of the death certificate; (2) the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate; and (3) a copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

BURIAL FLAG: Those for whom a burial flag is authorized: The PADD may send a flag with the remains/cremains. At the time of the burial at sea ceremony the flag will be flown on the assigned ship. Following the burial at sea the flag will be returned to the sender.

CREMATED REMAINS (Cremains): Cremains must be in an urn, or plastic/metal container to prevent spillage in shipping. The cremains, along with the completed Burial-at-Sea Request package, and the burial flag will be forwarded to the Burial-at-Sea Coordinator at the desired port of embarkation. Prior to shipment, it is recommended that a

phone call be made informing the coordinator of the pending request. It is also recommended that the cremains package be sent via Certified Mail, 'Return Receipt Requested.'

INTACT REMAINS (Casketed): Specific guidelines are required for the preparation of casketed remains. All expenses incurred in this process are the responsibility of the PADD, who will select a funeral home in the area of the port of embarkation. After this selection has been made and notification has been provided to the coordinator, the casketed remains, the request form, supporting documents, and the burial flag are to be forwarded to the receiving funeral home. The coordinator will make the inspection and complete the checklist for the preparation of casketed remains. It is recommended that funeral homes responsible for preparing and shipping intact remains, contact Navy Mortuary Affairs at the Military Medical Support Office in Great Lakes, Illinois to receive the preparation requirements.

FOR MORE ASSISTANCE: If you have any questions about the Navy's Burial-At-Sea program, please contact Navy Mortuary Affairs at the Military Medical Support Office in Great Lakes, Illinois at 1-888-647-6676, and select option 4.

This information was provided by Navy Mortuary Affairs. Sea Services can assist in any sea burial. You may contact us with your questions.

RAO BULLETIN—1 JANUARY 2010

The following information is from [Source: Tricare No. 09-76 17 News Release Dec 09 ++]

Tricare Retired Reserve: A new program will offer "gray area" reservists the opportunity to purchase Tricare health care coverage. While qualified members of the Selected Reserve may purchase premium-based coverage under Tricare Reserve Select (TRS), retired National Guard and Reserve personnel did not have Tricare health coverage options until they reached age 60. Under a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010, that's all changed. The new provision will allow certain members of the Retired Reserve who are not yet age 60 "gray-area retirees), to purchase Tricare Standard (and Extra) coverage. Tricare Extra simply means beneficiaries have lower out of pocket costs if they use a network provider. "We're working hard to coordinate all the details of eligibility, coverage and costs, and expedite implementation of this important program," said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity. "This is a major benefit program with implementation on the same magnitude as TRS. It will require detailed design, development and test-

ing, but qualified retired reservists should be able to purchase coverage by late summer or early fall of 2010."

While the health care benefit provided for gray-area retirees will be Tricare Standard and Extra – similar to TRS – the new program will differ from TRS in its qualifications, premiums, copayment rates and catastrophic cap requirements. The program is tentatively called Tricare Retired Reserve. The new statute requires premium rates to equal the full cost of the coverage. That is the major difference contrasted with TRS, where the statute provides that Selected Reserve members pay only 28 percent of the cost of the coverage. Premiums for the new gray area retiree program will be announced after program rules are published in the Federal Register. This new program offers an important health coverage option for Reserve and National Guard members who served their country honorably before hanging up their uniforms at retirement, said Hunter. For more information about Tricare benefits go to <http://www.tricare.mil>.

Secretary Shinseki Announces Study of Vietnam-Era Women Veterans—Comprehensive Study Will Help VA Provide High-Quality Care



The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>

WASHINGTON (Nov. 19, 2009) -Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching a comprehensive study of women Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War to explore the effects of their military service upon their mental and physical health.

"One of my top priorities is to meet the needs of women Veterans," said Secretary Shinseki. "Our Veterans have earned the very best care. VA realizes that women Veterans require specialized programs, and this study will help VA provide high-quality care for women Veterans of the Vietnam era."

The study, which begins in November and lasts more than four years, will contact approximately 10,000 women in a mailed survey, telephone interview and a review of their medical records.

As women Vietnam Veterans approach their mid-sixties, it is important to understand the impact of wartime deployment on health and mental outcomes nearly 40 years later. The study will assess the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental and physical health conditions for women Vietnam Veterans, and explore the relationship between PTSD and other conditions.

VA will study women Vietnam Veterans who may have had direct exposure to traumatic events, and for the first time, study those who served in facilities near Vietnam. These women may have had similar, but less direct exposures. Both women Veterans who receive their health care from VA and those who receive health care from other providers will be contacted to determine the prevalence of a variety of health conditions.

About 250,000 women Veterans served in the

military during the Vietnam War and about 7,000 were in or near Vietnam. Those who were in Vietnam, those who served elsewhere in Southeast Asia and those who served in the United States are potential study participants.

The study represents to date the most comprehensive examination of a group of women Vietnam Veterans, and will be used to shape future research on women Veterans in future wars. Such an understanding will lay the groundwork for planning and providing appropriate services for women Veterans, as well as for the aging Veteran population today.

Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. There are approximately 1.8 million women Veterans among the nation's total of 23 million living Veterans. Women comprise 7.8 percent of the total Veteran population and nearly 5.5 percent of all veterans who use VA health care services. VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10.5 percent of the Veteran population by 2020 and 9.5 percent of all VA patients.

In recent years, VA has undertaken a number of initiatives to create or enhance services for women Veterans, including the implementation of comprehensive primary care throughout the nation, staffing every VA medical center with a women Veterans program manager, supporting a multifaceted research program on women's health, improving communication and outreach to women Veterans, and continuing the operation of organizations like the Center for Women Veterans and the Women Veterans Health Strategic Healthcare Group.

The study, to be managed by VA's Cooperative Studies Program, is projected to cost \$5.6 million.

**America is #1
Thanks to Our Veterans**



VA Statement About 2010 Benefits and Programs

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) wants to inform Veterans of the following changes that will take effect in 2010:

VA will Freeze Increase in Prescription Copayments: Any increase in Veterans out-of-pocket payments for pharmaceuticals will be delayed until June 30, 2010. This means the department will delay a scheduled \$1 increase – to \$9 – in the copayments facing Veterans for each 30-day supply of medicine for the treatment of conditions not related to military service. During this period, VA will also keep \$960 as the maximum, annual out-of-pocket payments for pharmaceuticals for non-service-related conditions. The yearly maximum out-of-pocket payment was scheduled to increase to \$1,080. There are no copayments associated with the treatment of conditions related to military service.

No Adjustment in COLA for Disability Compensation + Pension Benefits:

As a result of negative inflation and the consumer price index going down over the past year the Social Security Administration has announced there will be no COLA this year for Social Security recipients. Under federal law VA's COLAs cannot exceed the Social Security COLAs. Therefore, VA is barred from making a COLA increase for recipients of its benefits.

VA provides compensation and pension benefits to over 3.8 million Veterans and other beneficiaries. Presently, the basic monthly rate of compensation paid to Veterans ranges from \$123 to \$2,673. Annual income limits for disability pension begin at \$11,830 for a Veteran without dependents and increase for Veterans who have dependents, who are housebound, or who need regular aid and attendance.

Veterans who have questions about their benefits may contact the VA's financial benefits toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000 or go to www.vba.va.gov/VBA.

RAO BULLETIN—1 JANUARY 2010

The following information is from [Source: <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility> Dec 09 ++]

VA Benefits Eligibility: Eligibility for most veterans' health care benefits is based solely on active military service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard (or Merchant Marines during WW II), and discharge under other than dishonorable conditions. Other groups may also be eligible for some health benefits. Returning service members, including Reservists and National Guard members who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations have special eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for five years following discharge from active duty. Active military service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Armed Services, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Active duty for training for the National Guard and Reserve does not qualify as full-time service. There's no length of service requirement for former enlisted persons who started active duty before 8 SEP 80 or former officers who first entered active duty before 17 OCT 81. All other veterans must have 24 months of continuous active duty military service or meet one of the exceptions described below:

- ◆ A reservist who was called to Active Duty and who completed the term for which you were called, and who was granted an other than dishonorable discharge.

- ◆ A National Guard member who was called to Active Duty by federal executive order, and who completed the term for which you were called, and who was granted an other than dishonorable discharge.
- ◆ Request a benefit for or in connection with:
 1. A service-connected condition or disability; or
 2. Treatment and/or counseling of sexual trauma that occurred while on active military service; or
 3. Treatment of conditions related to ionizing radiation; or
 4. Head or neck cancer related to nose or throat radium treatment while in the military.
- ◆ Discharged or released from active duty for a hardship.
- ◆ Discharged with an "early out".
- ◆ Discharged or released from active duty for a disability that began in the service or got worse because of the service.
- ◆ Been determined by VA to have compensable service-connected conditions.
- ◆ Discharged for a reason other than disability, but you had a medical condition at the time that was disabling, and in the opinion of a doctor, would have justified a discharge for disability (in this last case, the disability must be documented in service records).

RAO BULLETIN—1 JANUARY 2010

The following information from [Source: <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/eligibility/Others.asp> Dec 09 ++]

VA Benefits Eligibility Update 01: In addition to active military service veterans a number of groups who have provided military-related service to the United States have been granted VA benefits. For the service to qualify, the Secretary of Defense must certify that the group has provided active military service. Individuals must be issued a discharge by the Secretary of Defense to qualify for VA benefits. Service in the following groups has been certified as active military service for benefits purposes:

- ◆ Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs).
- ◆ World War I Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit.
- ◆ Engineer Field Clerks.
- ◆ Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC).
- ◆ Quartermaster Corps female clerical employees serving with the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I.
- ◆ Civilian employees of Pacific naval air bases who actively participated in defense of Wake Island during World War II.
- ◆ Reconstruction aides and dietitians in World War I.
- ◆ Male civilian ferry pilots.
- ◆ Wake Island defenders from Guam.
- ◆ Civilian personnel assigned to OSS secret intelligence.
- ◆ Guam Combat Patrol.
- ◆ Quartermaster Corps members of the Keswick crew on Corregidor during World War II.
- ◆ U.S. civilians who participated in the defense of Bataan.
- ◆ U.S. merchant seamen who served on blockships in support of Operation Mulberry in the World War II invasion of Normandy.
- ◆ American merchant marines in oceangoing service during World War II.
- ◆ Civilian Navy IFF radar technicians who served in combat areas of the Pacific during World War II.
- ◆ U.S. civilians of the American Field Service who served overseas in World War I.
- ◆ U.S. civilians of the American Field Service who served overseas under U.S. armies and U.S. army groups in World War II.
- ◆ U.S. civilian employees of American Airlines who served overseas in a contract with the Air Transport Command between 14 DEC 41 and 14 AUG 45.
- ◆ Civilian crewmen of U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey vessels who served in areas of immediate military hazard while conducting cooperative operations with and for the U.S. Armed Forces between 7 DEC 41 and 15 AUG 45.
- ◆ Members of the American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) who served between 7 DEC 41 and 18 JUL 42.
- ◆ U.S. civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employees of United Air Lines who served overseas in a contract with Air Transport Command between 14 DEC 41 and 14 AUG 45.
- ◆ U.S. civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employees of Transcontinental and Western Air, Inc. (TWA), who served overseas in a contract with the Air Transport Command between 14 DEC 41 and 14 AUG 45.
- ◆ U.S. civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employees of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp. (Consairway Division) who served overseas in a contract with Air Transport Command between 14 DEC 41 and 14 AUG 45.
- ◆ U.S. civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employees of Pan American World Airways and its subsidiaries and affiliates, who served overseas in a contract with the Air Transport Command and Naval Air Transport Service between 14 DEC 41 and 14 AUG 45.
- ◆ Honorably discharged members of the American Volunteer Guard, Eritrea Service Command, between June 21, 1942, and March 31, 1943.
- ◆ U.S. civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employees of Northwest Airlines who served overseas under the airline's contract with Air Transport Command from 14 DEC 41 to 14 AUG 45.
- ◆ U.S. civilian female employees of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps who served in the defense of Bataan and Corregidor during the period 2 JAN 42 to 3 Feb 45.
- ◆ U.S. flight crew and aviation ground support employees of Northeast Airlines Atlantic Division, who served overseas as a result of Northeast Airlines' contract with the Air Transport Command during the period 7 DEC 41 through 14 AUG 45.
- ◆ U.S. civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employees of Braniff Airways, who served overseas in the North Atlantic or under the jurisdiction of the North Atlantic Wing, Air Transport Command, as a result of a contract with the Air Transport Command during the period 26 FEB 42, through 14 AUG 45.
- ◆ Honorably discharged members of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II.

Veteran's Information Web Sites

The following information was found on the internet Aulikj@kewauneeco.org

Below are web-sites that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, information and how to appeal a denied claim with the VA. Please pass this information on to every Veteran you know. Nearly 100% of this information is free and available for all veterans, the only catch is: you have to ask for it, because they won't tell you about a specific benefit unless you ask for it. You need to know what questions to ask so the right doors open for you -- and then be ready to have an advocate who is willing to work with and for you, stay in the process, and press for your rights and your best interests.

Appeals http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch05.doc

Board of Veteran's Appeals <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>

CARES Commission <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>

CARES Draft National Plan <http://www1.va.gov/cares/page.cfm?pg=105>

Center for Minority Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/>

Center for Veterans Enterprise <http://www.vetbiz.gov/default2.htm>

Center for Women Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>

Clarification on the changes in VA healthcare for Gulf War Veterans
<http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000016.html>

Classified Records - American Gulf War Veterans Assoc
<http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum18/HTML/000011.html>

Compensation for Disabilities Associated with the Gulf War Service
http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/part6/ch07.doc

Compensation Rate Tables, 12-1-03 <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/comp01.htm>

Department of Veterans Affairs Home Page <http://www.va.gov/>

Directory of Veterans Service Organizations <http://www1.va.gov/vso/index.cfm?template=view>

Disability Examination Worksheets Index, Comp <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/exams/index.htm>

Due Process http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch02.doc

Duty to Assist http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch01.doc

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/>

Emergency, Non-emergency, and Fee Basis Care <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>

Environmental Agents <http://www1.va.gov/environagents/>

Establishing Combat Veteran Eligibility http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=315

See also, Depleted Uranium Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DepletedUraniumFAQSheet.doc>

EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR NON-GULF WAR VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU)
<http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHANDBOOKNONGW130340304.DOC>

Fee Basis, PRIORITY FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERVICES AND INPATIENT HOSPITAL CARE http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=206

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2005
<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>OR, http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.htm

Forms and Records Request <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>

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General Compensation Provisions

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter11_subchaptervi.html

Geriatrics and Extended Care <http://www1.va.gov/geriatricsshg/>

Guideline for Chronic Pain and Fatigue MUS-CPG http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpgn/mus/mus_base.htm

Guide to Gulf War Veteran's Health <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/VHIGulfwar.pdf>

Gulf War Subject Index <http://www1.va.gov/GulfWar/page.cfm?pg=7&template=main&letter=A>

Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses Q&As <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/GWIllnessesQandAsIB1041.pdf>

Hearings http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admi_n21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch04.doc

Homeless Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/>

HSR&D Home <http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/>

Index to Disability Examination Worksheets C&P exams

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/exams/index.htm>

Ionizing Radiation <http://www1.va.gov/irad/>

Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom Veterans VBA <http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/>

M 10 for spouses and children http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1007

M10 Part III Change 1 http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1008

M21-1 Table of Contents http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/M21_1.html

Mental Disorders, Schedule of Ratings

http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38CFR/BOOKC/PART4/S4_130.DOC

Mental Health Program Guidelines http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1094

Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers <http://www.mirecc.med.va.gov/>

MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Centers of Excellence <http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp>

My Health e Vet <http://www.myhealth.va.gov/>

NASDVA.COM National Association of State Directors <http://www.nasdva.com/>

National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

<http://www.nchdpd.med.va.gov/postdeploymentlinks.asp>

Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders, Schedule of Ratings

<http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38cfr/bookc/part4/s4%5F124a.doc>

OMI (Office of Medical Inspector) <http://www.omi.cio.med.va.gov/>

Online VA Form 10-10EZ <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>

Parkinson's Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders

<http://www1.va.gov/resdev/funding/solicitations/docs/parkinsons.pdf>

and, <http://www1.va.gov/padrecc/>

Peacetime Disability Compensation

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1131

Pension for Non-Service-Connected Disability or Death

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter15_subchapteri_.html

Persian Gulf Registry http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1003

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This program is now referred to as Gulf War Registry Program (to include Operation Iraqi Freedom) as of March 7, 2005: http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1232

Persian Gulf Registry Referral Centers

http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1006

Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 1999, Annual Report To Congress

http://www1.va.gov/resdev/1999_Gulf_War_Veterans'_Illnesses_Appendices.doc

Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 2002, Annual Report To Congress

http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf_war_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf

Phase I PGR http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1004

Phase II PGR http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1005

Policy Manual Index <http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/eds/edsmps.htm>

Power of Attorney http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch03.doc

Project 112 (Including Project SHAD) <http://www1.va.gov/shad/>

Prosthetics Eligibility http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=337

Public Health and Environmental Hazards Home Page <http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/>

Public Health/SIRS <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/SARS/>

Publications Manuals <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?Pub=4>

Publications and Reports http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/pubs_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf_war.htm

Records Center and Vault Homepage <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/default.html>

Records Center and Vault Site Map <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/sitemap.html>

REQUEST FOR AND CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM CLAIMANT'S RECORDS <http://www.forms.va.gov/va/Internet/VARF/getformharness.asp?formName=3288-form.xft>

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses April 11, 2002

http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/Minutes_April112002.doc

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses

http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/ReportandRecommendations_2004.pdf

Research and Development http://www.appc1.va.gov/resdev/programs/all_programs.cfm

Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partiii_chapter35_.html

Title 38 Index Parts 0-17 http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?sidhttp://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv1_02.tpl

Title 38 Part 3 Adjudication Subpart Aââ,*"Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid>

Title 38 Pensions, Bonuses & Veterans Relief (also Ã,§ 3.317 Compensation for certain disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses found here) <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid>

Title 38 PART 4--SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES Subpart B--DISABILITY RATINGS target=_blank <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid=ab7641afd195c84a49a2067dbbcf95c0&rgn=div6&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.2&idno=38ab7641afd195c84a49a2067dbbcf95c0&rgn=div6&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.2&idno=38>

(Continued on page 12—Web Sites)

(Web Sites—Continued from page 11)

Title 38 Â§ 4.16 Total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of the individual. PART 4â€SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES Subpart Aâ€General Policy in Rating

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&sid>

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims <http://www.vetapp.gov/>

VA Best Practice Manual for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

<http://www.avapl.org/pub/PTSD%20Manual%20final%206.pdf>

VA Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/opa/fact/gwfs.html>

VA Health Care Eligibility <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/home/hecmmain.asp>

VA INSTITUTING GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTION (GAF)

<http://www.avapl.org/gaf/gaf.html>

VA Life Insurance Handbook â€Chapter 3

<http://www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/GLIhandbook/glibookletch3.htm#310>

VA Loan Lending Limits and Jumbo Loans http://valoans.com/va_facts_limits.cfm

VA MS Research <http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp>

VA National Hepatitis C Program <http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/>

VA Office of Research and Development <http://www1.va.gov/resdev/>

VA Trainee Pocket Card on Gulf War <http://www.va.gov/OAA/pocketcard/gulfwar.asp>

VA WMD EMSG <http://www1.va.gov/emshg/>

VA WRIISC-DC <http://www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC/>

VAOIG Hotline Telephone Number and Address <http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/hotline3.htm>

Vet Center Eligibility - Readjustment Counseling Service <http://www.va.gov/rcs/Eligibility.htm>

Veterans Benefits Administration Main Web Page <http://www.vba.va.gov/>

Veterans Legal and Benefits Information <http://valaw.org/>

VHA Forms, Publications, Manuals <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/>

VHA Programs - Clinical Programs & Initiatives http://www1.va.gov/health_benefits/page.cfm?pg=13

VHA Public Health Strategic Health Care Group Home Page < ATitle <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/>

VHI Guide to Gulf War Veteransâ€(tm) Health http://www1.va.gov/vhi_ind_study/gulfwar/istudy/index.asp

Vocational Rehabilitation <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>

Vocational Rehabilitation Subsistence <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/InterSubsistencefy04.doc>

VONAPP online <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

WARMS - 38 CFR Book C <http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/bookc.html>

Wartime Disability Compensation

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1110

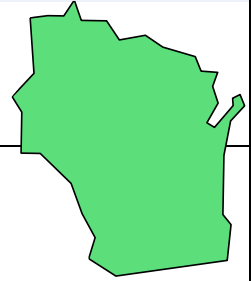
War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center - New Jersey <http://www.wri.med.va.gov/>

Welcome to the GI Bill Web Site <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

What VA Social Workers Do <http://www1.va.gov/socialwork/page.cfm?pg=3>

WRIISC Patient Eligibility <http://www.illegion.org/va1.html>

NEWS UPDATE FOR STATE BENEFITS



More Than 3,000 Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers Return from Iraq in January 2010

The following information was received from: Lt. Col. Jackie Guthrie, WI Dept of Military Affairs

The 3,200 Soldiers from the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and six other Wisconsin Army National Guard units will return to Wisconsin beginning Tuesday. Leading the way will be approximately 115 Soldiers, mostly from the Fort Atkinson-based Troop A, 105th Calvary, followed by the remaining 3,000 Soldiers throughout the month. All are scheduled to return to Volk Field where they will be met by senior National Guard officials, a military band and family members — homecomings are not open to the general public. Following an initial reunion with their families and a brief official "welcome home," ceremony the Soldiers will travel to nearby Fort McCoy to begin about five days of demobilization processing before being released from active duty.

The 32nd Brigade, augmented by six other Wisconsin Army National Guard units, was ordered to active duty Feb. 1, 2009 and deployed to Iraq in April and May following two months of training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

During training and while in Iraq, the brigade was organized into 27 company-sized units. Rather than operating as a brigade, the 32nd was tasked with a variety of missions throughout Iraq. These missions

included forward operating base administration, base defense, area security, quick reaction forces, freedom of movement security support, detainee guard force operations at theater internment facilities, closing the largest internment facility in Iraq, transferring detainees, operating an academy to train Iraqi corrections officers, inspecting detention facilities, securing and administering the International Zone in Baghdad, and turning over U.S.—controlled properties back the government of Iraq. The brigade's Soldiers operated around the clock, most of them working at least 12 hours a day — day after day, week after week, for eight full months in Iraq.

Having accomplished their mission, each company began transferring responsibilities to units from the Texas National Guard's 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team at the end of December and will continue to do so as they prepare to return to Wisconsin in January.

*For a detailed account of the
32nd Brigade's deployment see:*
<http://dma.wi.gov/deployment>)

Story online at:
<http://dma.wi.gov/dma/news/2010news/10001.asp>.

VetEd Reimbursement Grant Due Date Has Been Changed for the Application

The following information <http://dva.state.wi.us>

Effective January 4, 2010 a Veterans Education (VetEd) Reimbursement Grant application must be received by the department no later than 60 days after the start of the course, term or semester for which reimbursement is being sought. Prior to this change, the due date was 60 days after the end date of the course, term or semester. Information on application options are listed under the "How to Apply" heading on the VetEd webpage at www.WisVets.com/VetEd.

Students are to submit the application no later than 60 days after the start of the term to the department or authorized agent. Authorized agents should date-stamp the application prior to forwarding it to the department. School officials must complete the form submitted by the student with final grade information no later than 60 days after the end of the term to complete the process.



Wisconsin Veterans Homes—Quality of Care for Veterans

The following information is from the VSO Meeting—September 16, 2009

The State of Wisconsin offers two outstanding veterans homes that proudly serve military members and spouses who have served our country. The Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King (in Waupaca County) and Union Grove (in Racine County) offer veterans and their spouses quality care in an enriching environment that fits the need of the veteran.

To be admitted to a Wisconsin veterans home, veterans must meet criteria for military service and state residency. The veteran must have entered service from the state of Wisconsin, or must have resided in the state of Wisconsin for 12 consecutive months since his/her discharge from military service. Spouses and widows of eligible veterans may also qualify for admission to the Homes. Additional information regarding eligibility may be obtained by contacting your local County Veterans Service Office

“Our Wisconsin Veterans Homes provide top quality care to veterans and their families,” said Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary Ken Black. “These quality facilities provide veterans with an opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow veterans with the support of caring and professional staff, and with many added amenities,” said Secretary Black.

Under the current leadership of Acting Commandant Jackie Moore, a licensed nursing home administrator, the Veterans Home at King is a self-contained community on a 320-acre campus in Waupaca County on the shores of Rainbow Lake near the city of Waupaca. The King Home includes four separately licensed nursing facilities that provide comprehensive nursing care including a memory care unit, an on site dentist, a licensed librarian, pontoon boats, a bowling alley, and a complete woodworking shop.

The King Home is one of the largest skilled long-term care facilities in the United States. Approximately 500 nursing staff and over 300 support staff provide quality care for about 700 veterans and spouses who call “King” their home.

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove in Racine County is led by Commandant Randy Nitschke. Mr. Nitschke, a Vietnam Veteran, has extensive experience as a nursing home administrator. The Veterans Home at Union Grove includes assisted living facilities with many recently remodeled rooms, as well as a new skilled nursing facility and activity center. The Home at Union Grove, which offers a wide range of care for about 220 members, also offers Medicare services as

well a memory care unit.

The Union Grove Home has recently received notification that its nursing home (Boland Hall) has again received a “5-Star Rating” for overall quality of care for the second time in a row. Out of 16,000 nursing homes across the country only 15% receive this honor, and Boland Hall is one of them. The facility is a state-of-the-art skilled nursing home that is connected to a beautiful recreation center where veterans enjoy a library with computer/internet access, pool tables, pub, chapel, ceramics, and leather and woodworking activities.

In addition, WDVA’s Veterans Assistance Program (VAP) helps homeless veterans and those veterans at risk of becoming homeless (male and female) to receive job training, health care, counseling and rehabilitative services to give them the skills to reintegrate back into the community, while providing them with a stable, safe and secure shelter. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, established the VAP in 1994. This statewide “back-to-work” program operates Veterans Assistance Centers, with convenient access to nearby VA medical centers. The centers are located at: Fort McCoy, the campus of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, the campus of the Southern Wisconsin Center near Union Grove, and the campus of the Northern Wisconsin Center in Chippewa Falls.

A project is still in the planning stages for the proposed construction of a third state veterans home, in Chippewa Falls. Initial funding requests have been approved, but the final approval by the Federal VA may not be announced until 2010.

Wisconsin Veterans Homes are a tremendous benefit for veterans and their spouses to receive the best health care possible and at a cost that is significantly less when compared with similar facilities.

For photos and information about the Homes, including admissions and eligibility, please visit www.WisVets.com/Homes, or contact your local County Veterans Services Office. Waukesha County veterans may contact the Waukesha County Veterans Service Office, located at 500 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI, 53188 or by phone at 262-584-7732.

For information on all WDVA programs and services visit www.WisVets.com or call toll-free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387).

Veterans Eligible for 2009 Property Tax Relief

The following information <http://dva.state.wi.us>



Eligible Wisconsin veterans who are 100% service-connected disabled and rated under individual unemployability (IU) can apply for a Property Tax Credit when they file their 2009 property taxes.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) have updated new procedures and forms on WDVA's website at www.WisVets.com/Forms. The updated WDVA B0106 Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit Booklet is now available online for immediate use.

Eligible veterans and eligible unremarried surviving spouses who are verified by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs as meeting conditions of certification may apply for the benefit.

Once a veteran or unremarried surviving spouse receives a certification from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, they may then

claim the Property Tax Credit by: completing a Wisconsin income tax return for the eligible year and claiming the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit on the designated Property Tax Credit line on the long or short form—note that 2009 is the first year of eligibility for approved applicants under the “new 2009 criteria;” enclosing a copy of a property tax bill and proof of payment with the Wisconsin tax return (if filing a tax return electronically, use Form W-RA to submit required documents to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue; and, for the first year qualifying for the credit, by enclosing a photocopy of the certification received from WDVA with the Wisconsin tax return.

Returns are preferred to be filed electronically. Required paperwork should be submitted with a W-RA form that can be printed off with most tax software programs, and should be mailed to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 59, Madison, WI 53785-0001.

NEWS UPDATE FOR THE LOCAL AREA



Waukesha County Historical Society Looking to Interview WWII Veterans

The following information was received from: Waukesha County Historical Society

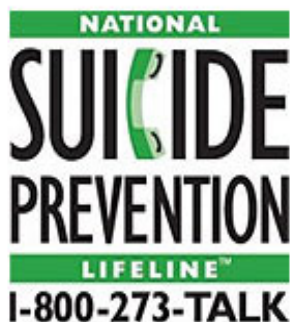
A special photographic World War II exhibit will be coming to the Waukesha County Historical Society in November of 2010. Prior to this exhibit, the Historical Society would like to videotape interviews with several World War II veterans. The Society is currently compiling a list of veterans who are willing

to share their stories. They will then select several veterans to interview. If you would like to be part of this historic event, please contact: Mr. Eric Vanden Heuvel

(262) 521-2859 ext. 223,

evandenheuvel@wchsm.org.

You need to contact him by March 2010.



It takes the courage and strength
of a warrior to ask for help....

If you're in an emotional crisis
Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
“Press 1 for Veterans”

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org



St. John's Military Academy on 11/11/2009—Veteran's Day Celebration

(Commentary—Continued from page 2)

VSO to VSO but are generally they are under \$35 a year. Do not sit on the sidelines and expect someone else to do the work for you. Get involved even if you cannot or do not want to attend every meeting. Your membership matters and enables the other volunteers to do their work and represent you.

Do you realize that it would only take a generation to see Veteran's Day, or Memorial Day no longer observed. Who better understands the reason for the civic observance than you do? If you don't march, if you don't place the flag on the graves, if you don't help assist with funeral honors, if you don't talk to kids in schools who will? Who will care if you are not there? Freedom is always one generation away from being lost. Join a post, get involved and make a difference. You owe it to yourself and your fellow veterans. Join a VSO today.

Most of the VSO's maintain National and Department (State level) websites. To obtain more information or join, checkout the following sites, Wisconsin American Legion www.wilegion.org (608) 745-1090, VFW www.vfwwebcom.org/wisconsin (608) 221-5276, DAV www.dav.wi.org (920) 406-0620, VVA www.vva.org (800) 585-4000, MOPH www.purpleheart.org (262) 547-6501, MCL www.mcleague.org Adjutant (262) 424-2183 and AMVETS www.AMVETS-wi.org (414) 273-5288.

AMVETS

A veteran who would like to start a Waukesha area AMVETS Post recently contacted me. To be eligible for membership in AMVETS, you must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, anytime after Sept. 15, 1940. Additionally, unless still serving, your discharge must have been under honorable conditions. If you served as an American citizen in the armed forces of an allied nation, under honorable conditions, between Sept. 15, 1940 and May 8, 1975, you are also eligible, as are wartime members of the Merchant Marine. Proof of eligibility can take the form of a DD-214, an honorable discharge certificate or other appropriate document. Only ten new members are needed to start this post. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Jeremy Pierson at (262)744-1342 or pierson2009@aol.com.

KOREAN VETS

Mr. Gordon Faust, a USAF Korean War veteran, is attempting to compile the correct information and obtain a photo for the 800 Wisconsin residents who died during the Korean War. He will forward the information to the American Battle Monuments Commission for inclusion on their website. If you have information or pictures of the following Waukesha residents please contact Mr. Faust. Pvt. Donald F. Ebert, Sgt. Leland E. Ehrlich, Cpl. Joseph E. Gallitz, Cpl. Kenneth L. Jones, Pvt. William D. Partin, Pvt. Edward L. Reick, Maj. Elwin I. Whaley, and MSgt. Siegfried A. Wolf. You may contact Mr. Faust at agfaust58@tds.net or at (608) 849-8786.